

441—200.2 (600) Release of custody services. This rule applies to all terminations filed under Iowa Code chapter 600A. The parents shall be offered a minimum of three hours of counseling by a person authorized to provide counseling under the provisions of this rule. If accepted, the counseling shall be provided after the birth of the child and prior to the signing of a release of custody that meets the requirements of Iowa Code chapter 600A or prior to the filing of a petition for termination of parental rights.

200.2(1) Purpose of counseling. The purpose of the counseling is to:

a. Provide information about options to assist parents in making an informed decision regarding release of custody.

b. Assist parents in resolving emotional issues related to separation and loss.

200.2(2) Requirements for counseling providers. Counseling to parents shall be provided only by the following persons:

a. Certified adoption investigators.

b. Mental health professionals who have the equivalent of two years of adoption work experience in the direct provision of adoption services.

c. Private agency staff with two years of adoption work experience in the direct provision of adoption services.

d. Department staff with two years of adoption work experience in the direct provision of adoption services.

200.2(3) Forms. A child study shall be completed for all children who are adopted under Iowa Code chapter 600 using the outline RC-0027, Social History Format. All forms used to execute a release of custody shall comply with the requirements of Iowa Code chapters 600 and 600A.

200.2(4) Affidavit and documentation. The person providing the counseling shall complete Form 470-3164 or 470-3164(S), Counseling Affidavit, certifying that the counselor has provided the biological parent with the requested counseling or that the biological parent has refused counseling. The Counseling Affidavit and documentation that the person providing the counseling is qualified to provide the requested counseling shall be attached to the release of custody. Documentation shall include one of the following:

a. A copy of a professional license, when applicable.

b. A record of all adoption work experience including dates and location. In addition, the person providing counseling shall provide the names of employers and supervisors to enable the court to verify the counselor's adoption work experience.